

REMARKS

I. Examiner Interview

The Applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in speaking with them on March 10, 2008. The Applicants discussed the status of the claims.

II. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, and 14-15: 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15 are directed to a method for enhancing communication in a noisy environment. The method includes receiving input signals emanating from at least two microphone arrays in which each array includes at least two microphones.

The Yang, et al. reference describes a wireless device including a *single* array of microphones. Yang, et al., Figures 1A-1C and col. 3: 50-col. 4: 41. Speech received by the single array is processed to remove background noise. Yang, et al., col. 4: 42-49. Yang, et al. also describes a *single* linear array. Yang, et al., col. 1: 56-64. However, Yang, et al. does not teach or suggest *at least two* microphone *arrays*.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully assert that Yang, et al. does not teach or disclose all of the features of claims 1-15. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim 6

Furthermore, claim 6 recites features that are not anticipated. Claim 6 is directed to a method that enhances communication in a noisy environment that determines and compares a wanted signal power, a blocking signal power, and a background noise signal power. Yang, et al. does not teach or suggest determining and comparing a wanted signal power, a blocking signal power, and a background noise signal power.

III. Claims 12-13 and 16-20: 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-20 are directed to a communication system. The communication system includes multiple microphone arrays that include at least two microphones that produce microphone signals. A digital signal processing means determines temporal and spatial information from the microphone signals that are transmitted by multiple loudspeakers.

Claims 12-13 are directed to a method that enhances communication in a noisy environment. The method selects one or more outputs from two or more output channels.

The combined Yang, et al. and Breed, et al. reference describes a wireless device

having a *single* array. See Yang, et al., Figures 1A-1C and col.3: 50-col. 4: 41 and Breed, et al., paragraphs [0011] and [0130]-[0131]. The combination does not teach or suggest *at least two* microphone *arrays*.

Also, the single array of the combined references receives signals, such as ultrasonic signals, to determine a position of a passenger. Breed, et al., paragraph [0101]. Based on the determination of position, a *second signal*, such as music, is directed toward a desired passenger or occupant. Breed, et al., paragraphs [0130]-[0131]. The combined disclosure does not teach or suggest processing input signals to determine temporal and spatial information of the input signals *and* providing the *processed signals as an output*.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully assert that the proposed combination of Yang, et al. and Breed, et al. do not teach or disclose all of the features of claims 12-13 and 16-20. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections.

IV. Claims 4, 7, and 9: 35 U.S.C. § 103

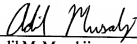
The Examiner rejected claims 4, 7, and 9 as being unpatentable over Yang et al. and further in view of Official Notice. Office Action, pages 8-10. The Examiner asserts that the features of the claims not disclosed by Yang et al. are commonly known in the art. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a declaration in support of the Official Notice for each of the rejected claims or withdraw the rejections. See MPEP § 2144.04 and 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2).

Furthermore, the basis of rejection for claim 4 is incomplete. Page 10 of the Office Action does not provide a complete reason for rejecting claim 4. Therefore, the Applicants kindly request a new Non Final Office Action with a clear basis of rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If any issues remain, the Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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